



THE COUNTY OF KAUAI

DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

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News Release

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Hurricane season starts June 1

LĪHU'E – The hurricane season in the central Pacific region, which includes Hawai'i, starts on June 1 and runs through Nov. 30.

According to the National Weather Service, this year's outlook calls for two to six tropical cyclones with a 75 percent chance of a near to below normal season and a 25 percent chance of an above normal season. The outlook is a general guide to the overall seasonal hurricane activity in the Central Pacific basin and does not predict whether or how many of these systems will affect Hawai'i.

An average season has four or five storms, which includes tropical depressions, tropical storms as well as hurricanes.

"It is crucial for the people of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau to be prepared in the event of a hurricane," said Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency (KEMA) Administrator Elton Ushio.

"This year's outlook is around normal, however we remind the public that it just takes one storm to impact and adversely affect our community, even without a direct hit."

He noted that disaster kits should include at least a 14-day supply of non-perishable food, one gallon of water per person per day, a battery powered radio, flashlight, an extra supply of prescription medicines and other items specific to individual and family needs. It is also recommended that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, face masks and hand sanitizers be included in disaster kits.



Mayor Derek S.K. Kawakami echoed Ushio's recommendation on preparedness.

"This hurricane season is happening during unprecedented times with the COVID-19 pandemic," said Mayor Kawakami. "It reminds us how important it is to make the necessary preparations for your family's safety for all hazards. We are in a remote location and the availability of supplies may continue to be limited."

The Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) continuously monitors weather conditions, employing a network of satellites, land- and ocean-based sensors and aircraft reconnaissance missions operated by NOAA and its partners. Complex computer modeling and human expertise serve as the basis for the hurricane center's track and intensity forecasts that extend out five days.

The CPHC issues a Hurricane or Tropical Storm Watch when hurricane or tropical storm-force winds are possible within 48 hours.

A Hurricane or Tropical Storm Warning is issued when hurricane or tropical storm-force winds are expected to strike within 36 hours.

When either a watch or a warning is issued, residents and visitors should listen to their local radio or TV stations and monitor local web/internet media and websites for official weather information and instructions from emergency management entities.

Information on planning and preparation regarding hurricane season is available on the county website, www.kauai.gov/kema, or the Central Pacific Hurricane Center website, <http://www.hurricanes.gov/cphc>.

To sign up for the county's free emergency notification service, Blackboard Connect, please go to the county website, www.kauai.gov/kema.

Blackboard Connect is designed to quickly inform residents and businesses about civil defense emergencies including: tsunamis; hurricanes; earthquakes; flash floods; and any other situation that could impact the safety, property, or welfare of residents and visitors.

Those without Internet access can have their phone number and other pertinent information added to the county database by calling the Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency at 241-1800.

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